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Introduction

Negros is a boot-shaped island in the southern Visayas, the fourth largest island in the Philippines, slightly smaller than Connecticut. (See Plate I.)[1] Negros is 118 miles long and varies from 22 to 49 miles in width. To the northwest is the triangular island of Panay, separated from Negros by a narrow strait. To the east, as if balanced on Negros' "toe" is Cebu, parted from Negros by the Tañon Strait. The northern tip of Negros is about 300 statute miles from the Philippine capital, Manila.

> All of the island [Negros] lies well within the tropics, occupying a position between latitudes 9° and 11° North. Altogether, the island of Negros represents a total land surface of 4,997 square miles, or about four per cent of the total area of the Philippines.[1]

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The physiographic and, to a less extent, the major political divisions of the island depend upon a central mountain system, lying slightly to the east of the center of Negros, and running north to south. (See Plate II.)[2] To the west this mountain system descends to the broad and fertile plains of Negros Occidental province. To the east the mountains tumble toward the Tañon Strait, tapering off and fringed by the small isolated plains of eastern Negros Oriental province. To the south and southwest, the mountain region merges into a dissected hill and plateau region, dominated in

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[1] Wernstedt, op. cit., p.2.

1 [See p. 26, cat. 131 - Analyst]

2 [See p. 27, cat. 133 - "]

20: Hart E-5 (1951) 1954 OA1 Philippines
Central Bisayan OA14

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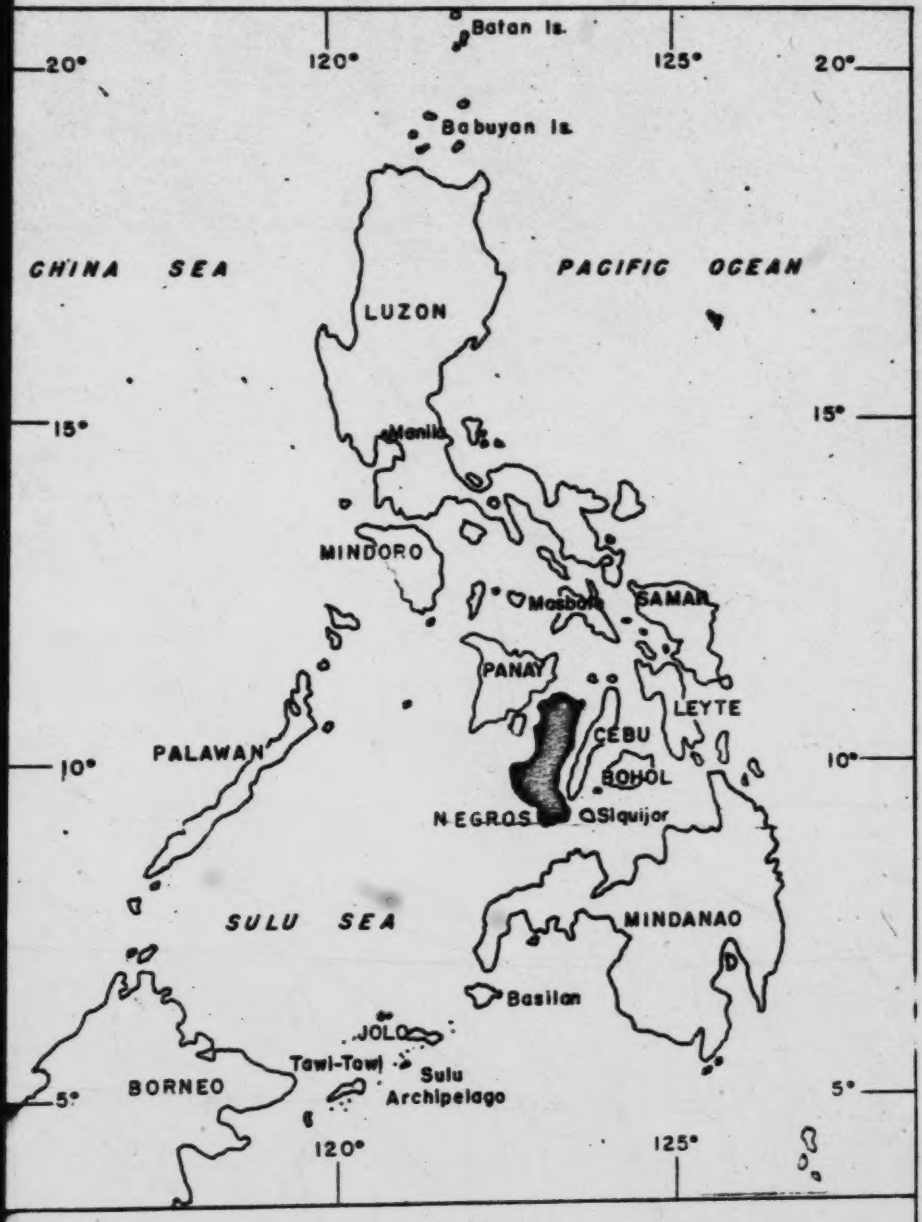

LOCATION MAP
NEGROS ISLAND PHILIPPINES

N

0 100 200 300 400

Corn stalks from the first paddy corn harvest are given to those who cut them. At this time the nearby grazing areas are green and fodder is plentiful. During the harvest or shortly afterwards men or young boys come to cut the stalks and carry them home for their animals. However, in the later corn and rice harvests the cultivators do not donate the harvested stalks. By this time the pastures have begun to dry up; the corn and rice stalks are retained by the owners for their own animals.

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Local Harvest Migrations

During July many people from Caticugan, the poblacion and nearby barrios go to Omanod to help in the corn harvest. Corn is usually harvested earlier in Omanod than in Siaton.[49] Omanod is situated in a small riverine plain in Sta. Catalina municipality, about three or four miles west of Barrio Bonawon. In 1951 people came from Bacong and Dauin to help in the Omanod corn harvest. Some took the bus and others from Siaton poblacion walked or rode horses. Women and young children outnumbered men. Several families in Caticugan and the poblacion left younger children under the care of an elder daughter while mother and father went to Omanod.

243 224 [13]

[49] Siaton corn harvests sometimes occur before those of Omanod. Normally, however, the earlier rains of Omanod make it possible for the barriofolk to plant (and harvest) their corn before Siaton. However, in 1952, fewer harvesters went to Omanod from Siaton because both harvests occurred about the same period.